A provision of Rs.258.47 lakh had been kept in Doordarshan's Annual Plan 1996-97 for these projects.

(d) Requests are received from various quarters, including the State Governments, for augmentation of TV service in the States. Such requests are kept in view, alongwith other factors such as suitability of location, availability of infrastructural facilities, extent of resultant coverage and inter-se priorities, while finalising locations for Doordarshan projects which is continuous activity.

Stoppages at Railway Stations in Thiruvananthapuram District

177. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain Railway Stations in Thiruvananthapuram District having large number of passenger traffic are still deprived of stoppages for some Express trains;

(b) if so, whether there is any demand for the stoppage of the Vanchinad Express at Varkala in Thiruvananthapuram and for the stoppages of Madras Mail and Day Express at Chirayinkil and Kadakavur alternatively;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Vanchinad Express, Madras Mail, Parasuram Express and the Inter-city Express are being side-lined for crossings at the said stations; and

(d) if so, the demands fro stoppages at the said stations have been met with so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Additional stoppage of a mail/express train is provided keeping in view the traffic at a station as well as to maintain the fast character of the train in the interest of the through passengers.

(b) Some representations have been received in this regard.

(c) All these trains are not scheduled to be detained for crossing at Verkala, Kadakavur and Chirayinkil. However, on a day to day basis due to operational exigencies some of these trains do get detained for crossing.

(d) Examined but not found justified.

Telephone Charges

178. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Telephone Department is examining the option of reverting to the original time-table when quarter charges were available from 10 p.m. and not 9 p.m.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the government are aware that the upgrading and modernising both switching and transmission technology, the bottleneek experienced at present by the subscribers during 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. can be reduced to much extent; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d). The feasibility of changing the time-table of concessional period is being exemined. This is being done based on technical, economic and traffic studies.

Provision of Modern Facilities at Howrah Yard

179. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that minimum amenities ar not available at Howrah Yard and employees are working in a most unhygenic conditions there;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide adequate modern facilities at Howrah Yard and to improve working condition of employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

CEMP Council for Employment of Indian labourers abroad

180. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council to promote the employment of Indian Labourers abroad;

(b) if so, the function of the Council,

(c) the details of the composition of the Council; and

(d) by when a final decision s likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). A proposal to set up a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council to render promotional and advisory services is under examination of Government. Question of setting a time schedule for this purpose will arise only if a decision to set up the proposed council is taken dependent upon other concerned Ministries/Departments of Government agreeing to it.